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Report CIA Will Send 200 Spies Into Cold

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—The Central Intelligence Agency will fire about 200 spies from its much-criticized clandestine services division, sources said yesterday.

The 200 reportedly have been notified that their jobs will be terminated March 31. The Office of Management and Budget had directed the CIA to cut at least 300 operatives from the estimated 4,800 members in clandestine services. The CIA has more than 16,000 employees.

CIA Director Stansfield Turner had said in August that he planned to lay off 800 employees in the clandestine, or "dirty tricks," division. With the first 200 leaving in March, the other 600 reportedly will lose their jobs by the end of 1979.

The CIA's ranks had swelled during the Vietnam war and later were reduced, "but we found not enough," Turner said.

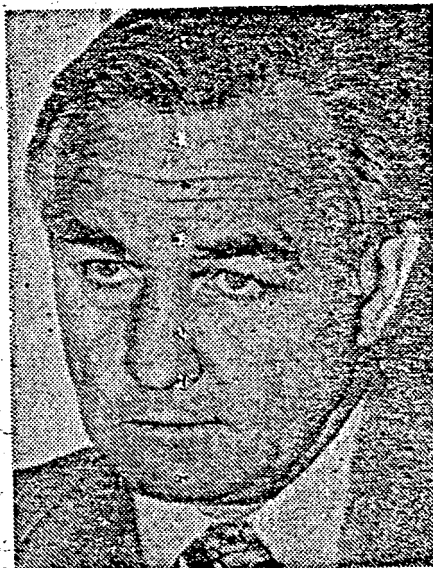
The cutback is the second in four years, the sources said. In 1973, hundreds of operatives were fired in another effort to trim CIA ranks.

"They're Mostly Underemployed"

"The fact is that since Vietnam, these 800 are no longer needed. They're mostly underemployed," one CIA official said. He played down reports that in the age of technological spying, with spy satellites and electronic eavesdropping equipment, the old-fashioned spy has become obsolete.

The cutback plan received little attention last summer, but yesterday the Washington Post ran a story quoting several usually anonymous spies who claimed that Turner might be trying to staff the agency with more and more of his own operatives.

Turner, unlike most of the past CIA directors, is an outsider, and has no long-time friends among the CIA brass. Former CIA Directors Richard Helms



Stansfield Turner

He's an outsider in CIA

and William Colby grew up in the dirty tricks division and it was not until the brief tenure of James Schlesinger as CIA chief that the clandestine service ranks were cut.

Colby was a leading CIA operative in Vietnam, where he headed the Phoenix program that saw South Vietnamese police kill thousands of Viet Vietcong suspects. Colby said that the killings occurred under battlefield conditions. Critics had branded them as illegal executions.

CIA officials said that Turner wants the staff reduction to make clandestine services "lean and mean."